

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3688

To establish an international professional exchange program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2010

Mr. KERRY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To establish an international professional exchange program,  
and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “International Profes-  
5       sional Exchange Act of 2010”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

8               (1) According to the National Research Coun-  
9       cil’s 2007 report titled “International Education and  
10       Foreign Languages: Keys to Securing America’s Fu-

1       ture”, “knowledge of foreign languages and cultures  
 2       is increasingly critical for the nation’s security and  
 3       its ability to compete in the global marketplace.  
 4       Language skills and cultural expertise are needed  
 5       for federal service, for business, for such professions  
 6       as law, health care, and social work, and for an in-  
 7       formed citizenry.”.

8               (2) Exchange programs play an important role  
 9       in learning about foreign cultures and languages and  
 10       building bridges between societies. Our Nation bene-  
 11       fits from having people from all over the world  
 12       study, work, and travel in the United States.

13              (3) The Fulbright Programs are widely recog-  
 14       nized and prestigious international exchange pro-  
 15       grams, with approximately 294,000 “Fulbrighters”  
 16       from more than 155 countries participating in the  
 17       academic exchange program since its inception more  
 18       than 60 years ago.

19              (4) In his June 4, 2009, speech in Cairo,  
 20       Egypt, President Barack Obama stated—

21                   (A) “I have come here to seek a new be-  
 22       ginning between the United States and Muslims  
 23       around the world; one based on mutual interest  
 24       and mutual respect.”;

1 (B) in discussing economic development  
 2 and opportunity, “we will expand exchange pro-  
 3 grams” and “we will create a new corps of busi-  
 4 ness volunteers to partner with counterparts in  
 5 Muslim-majority countries”; and

6 (C) “Indeed, faith should bring us to-  
 7 gether. That is why we are forging service  
 8 projects in America that bring together Chris-  
 9 tians, Muslims, and Jews.” and “Around the  
 10 world, we can turn dialogue into Interfaith serv-  
 11 ice, so bridges between peoples lead to action.”.

12 (5) During the 2010 Presidential Summit on  
 13 Entrepreneurship, President Obama emphasized the  
 14 importance of partnering with global Muslim com-  
 15 munities “to expand economic prosperity . . . and to  
 16 deepen ties between business leaders, foundations,  
 17 and entrepreneurs in the United States and Muslim  
 18 communities around the world.”.

19 (6) In her November 2009 speech at the  
 20 “Forum for the Future” in Marrakech, Morocco,  
 21 Secretary of State Clinton stated “It is results, not  
 22 rhetoric, that matter in the end. Economic empower-  
 23 ment, education, healthcare, access to energy and to  
 24 credit, these are the basics that all communities  
 25 need to thrive. . . . We know that true progress

1 comes from within a society and cannot be imposed  
2 from the outside, and we know that change does not  
3 happen overnight. So we will not focus our energies  
4 on one-time projects, but we will seek to work with  
5 all of you in government and in civil society to try  
6 to build local capacity and empower local organiza-  
7 tions and individuals to create sustainable change.”.

8 (7) On January 28, 2010, Farah Pandith, Spe-  
9 cial Representative to Muslim Communities for the  
10 Department of State, stated, “by working together  
11 in true partnership with Muslims around the world,  
12 we can build new relationships and partnerships that  
13 inspire and promote peace, prosperity, dignity, and  
14 hope.”.

15 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot pro-  
17 gram—

18 (1) to help build professional capacity and con-  
19 tribute professional skills to local communities  
20 through a two-way exchange of fellows;

21 (2) to address some of the long-term economic  
22 challenges facing the global economy by sharing and  
23 building professional expertise and building civil so-  
24 ciety capacity in the United States and in Muslim-

1 majority countries, including minority populations in  
2 those countries;

3 (3) to promote cross-cultural understanding be-  
4 tween the people of the United States and the people  
5 in Muslim-majority countries, including minority  
6 populations in those countries;

7 (4) to improve mutual understanding, change  
8 perceptions, and strengthen the people-to-people ties  
9 which unite Americans with people in Muslim-major-  
10 ity countries, including minority populations in those  
11 countries; and

12 (5) to promote international cooperation and  
13 peace.

14 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
17 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
18 mittees” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
20 the Senate;

21 (B) the Committee on Appropriations of  
22 the Senate;

23 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
24 the House of Representatives; and

1 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of  
2 the House of Representatives.

3 (2) FELLOW.—The term “fellow” means a col-  
4 lege-educated professional who—

5 (A) is between 21 and 40 years of age; and

6 (B) has been selected to participate in the  
7 Program.

8 (3) FELLOWSHIP.—The term “fellowship”  
9 means the vehicle through which inbound and out-  
10 bound fellows participate in the Program.

11 (4) INBOUND FELLOW.—The term “inbound  
12 fellow” means a fellow who is coming to the United  
13 States from a Muslim-majority country.

14 (5) MUSLIM-MAJORITY COUNTRY.—The term  
15 “Muslim-majority country” means—

16 (A) a country that is a Member State of  
17 the Organization of the Islamic Conference; and

18 (B) the Republic of Kosovo.

19 (6) OUTBOUND FELLOW.—The term “outbound  
20 fellow” means a fellow who is going to a Muslim-ma-  
21 jority country from the United States.

22 (7) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
23 the 3-year International Professional Exchange Pilot  
24 Program established under this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PILOT**  
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State is au-  
4 thorized to establish a 3-year international professional ex-  
5 change pilot program for—

6 (1) young professionals in the United States to  
7 live and work in a Muslim-majority country; and

8 (2) young professionals in Muslim-majority  
9 countries to live and work in the United States.

10 (b) FELLOWSHIP DURATION.—The fellowships under  
11 the Program should last between 3 and 6 months, during  
12 which—

13 (1) time should be allocated for professional  
14 training, community service, and cultural immersion  
15 activities, including site visits and domestic travel;  
16 and

17 (2) the majority of time should be spent in a  
18 professional job setting that complements the fel-  
19 low's professional background and builds relevant  
20 professional skill sets.

21 (c) COMMUNITY SERVICE.—Each fellow shall be re-  
22 quired to complete at least 40 hours of community service  
23 in the local community in which the fellow is placed to  
24 gain a better appreciation for—

25 (1) issues surrounding the local community;

26 (2) the importance of civic engagement; and

1           (3) in some cases, interfaith service, which in-  
2       volves service activities and projects for the common  
3       good that draw participants from more than 1 faith  
4       tradition, denomination, spiritual movement, or reli-  
5       gion and often include secular participants and orga-  
6       nizations.

7       (d) PLACEMENT.—Each fellow shall be placed in a  
8       professional environment that complements his or her pro-  
9       fessional training and experience. To the extent possible,  
10      outbound fellowship placement selections should target  
11      local companies and businesses in addition to placement  
12      opportunities with local governments and civil society or-  
13      ganizations.

14      (e) TRAVEL EXPENSES; STIPEND.—The Program  
15      shall cover all relevant travel, administrative, and health  
16      care costs for each fellow that are directly related to his  
17      or her participation in the Program. Each fellow shall re-  
18      ceive a stipend in an amount equal to the estimated costs  
19      to be incurred for housing, meals, and local transportation  
20      costs. Fellows shall not be paid a salary by the Program  
21      for their fellowship. To the extent available and consistent  
22      with local law, fellows may accept a stipend from the local  
23      company or organization connected to their fellowship.

24      (f) TECHNOLOGY.—In administering the Program,  
25      the Secretary of State is encouraged to support and utilize



1 communications technology to train fellows and provide  
2 networking opportunities for fellows, including—

- 3 (1) simultaneous orientations;
- 4 (2) online educational and cultural trainings,  
5 including refresher language training;
- 6 (3) classroom exchanges;
- 7 (4) online networks of fellows; and
- 8 (5) platforms for sharing experiences and cre-  
9 ating alumni networks.

10 **SEC. 6. SELECTION OF INBOUND FELLOWS.**

11 (a) COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—The selection of inbound  
12 fellows shall reflect geographic diversity to the extent pos-  
13 sible. The Secretary of State shall select not fewer than  
14 4 and not more than 7 Muslim-majority countries from  
15 which the initial group of inbound fellows may be selected.  
16 In making such selections, the Secretary shall select at  
17 least 1 country from each of the following geographic re-  
18 gions:

- 19 (1) Middle East and North Africa.
- 20 (2) Central Asia and South Asia.
- 21 (3) Southeast Asia.

22 (b) RECRUITMENT.—In recruiting inbound fellows  
23 for the Program, the Secretary should—

- 24 (1) build upon existing programs to engage  
25 Muslim communities, including efforts by the De-

1       partment of State through the Office of the Special  
2       Representative to Muslim Communities and the Of-  
3       fice of the Special Envoy to the Organization of the  
4       Islamic Conference;

5           (2) reach out to graduates of English learning  
6       programs, such as the English Access Microscholar-  
7       ship Program;

8           (3) work with local Chambers of Commerce and  
9       leading private sector industries to identify potential  
10      candidates;

11          (4) engage with public service networks and  
12      leading public service and nonprofit organizations;

13          (5) use online networking and media tools to  
14      reach potential fellows; and

15          (6) use other creative outlets to reach a broad  
16      and diverse candidate pool.

17      (c) SELECTION PROCESS.—In selecting inbound fel-  
18      lows for the Program, the Secretary should—

19          (1) give preference to candidates who—

20              (A) have relevant professional and lan-  
21              guage qualifications;

22              (B) are prepared for cultural immersion;  
23              and

24              (C) have demonstrated leadership in their  
25              communities;

1           (2) take into account the gender and geographic  
2       diversity of the candidates;

3           (3) conduct in-person interviews with all of the  
4       finalists to test their character and personal commit-  
5       ment to the goals of the Program; and

6           (4) select fellows from a variety of professional  
7       backgrounds with a preference for individuals who  
8       work in—

9                   (A) the public sector, including teachers,  
10           urban/city planners, public health workers, and  
11           public administrators; or

12                   (B) civil society, including journalists,  
13           faith-based leaders, interfaith leaders, and those  
14           working in nonprofit organizations.

15 **SEC. 7. OUTBOUND FELLOWS.**

16       (a) COUNTRY OF PLACEMENT.—The placement of  
17       outbound fellows shall reflect geographic diversity to the  
18       extent possible. The Secretary of State shall select not  
19       fewer than 4 and not more than 7 Muslim-majority coun-  
20       tries to which the initial group of outbound fellows may  
21       be placed. This group of countries does not need to be  
22       the same group of countries from which inbound fellows  
23       are selected. In making such selection, at least 1 country  
24       should be selected from each of the following geographic  
25       regions:

1 (1) Middle East and North Africa.

2 (2) Central Asia, South Asia, and Southeast  
3 Asia.

4 (b) RECRUITMENT.—In recruiting outbound fellows  
5 for the Program, the Secretary should identify a large se-  
6 lection of potential candidates by working closely with—

7 (1) Federal and State government agencies;

8 (2) United States academic institutions, par-  
9 ticularly graduate schools;

10 (3) public and private sector professional net-  
11 works;

12 (4) private businesses; and

13 (5) nongovernmental organizations.

14 (c) SELECTION PROCESS.—In selecting outbound fel-  
15 lows for the Program, the Secretary should—

16 (1) identify candidates who—

17 (A) have relevant professional and lan-  
18 guage qualifications;

19 (B) are prepared for cultural immersion;  
20 and

21 (C) have demonstrated leadership in their  
22 communities;

23 (2) take into account the gender and geographic  
24 diversity of the candidates;

1           (3) conduct in-person interviews with all of the  
 2           finalists to test their character and personal commit-  
 3           ment to the goals of the Program; and

4           (4) select fellows from a variety of professional  
 5           backgrounds, with a preference for individuals who  
 6           work in—

7                   (A) the public sector, including teachers,  
 8                   urban/city planners, public health workers, and  
 9                   public administrators; and

10                   (B) civil society, including journalists,  
 11                   faith-based leaders, interfaith leaders, and those  
 12                   working in nonprofit organizations.

13 **SEC. 8. ORIENTATION, TRAINING, AND LANGUAGE.**

14           (a) ORIENTATION.—At the beginning of each fellow-  
 15           ship, the Program should include an orientation for each  
 16           class of inbound fellows and outbound fellows.

17           (b) TRAINING.—The Program should provide, and re-  
 18           quire each fellow to complete, appropriate professional and  
 19           cultural training before and during the fellowship.

20           (c) LANGUAGE.—The Program is not intended to  
 21           teach fellows professional competency in the working lan-  
 22           guage of the country in which fellows are placed. Fellows  
 23           should possess a working level knowledge of the language  
 24           needed for professional placement before the placement is

1 made. The Program shall provide refresher language  
2 training for fellowship placement, as needed.

3 **SEC. 9. POST-FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES.**

4 (a) CERTIFICATE.—Upon successful completion of  
5 the fellowship, each fellow shall receive a certificate from  
6 the Department of State certifying such completion.

7 (b) ALUMNI NETWORKS.—The Program should in-  
8 clude an alumni component that encourages former fellows  
9 to meet and build relationships and provides an oppor-  
10 tunity for former fellows—

11 (1) to remain linked to the Program and the  
12 network of colleagues they met through the Pro-  
13 gram;

14 (2) to share experiences with current and  
15 former fellows and participating professional organi-  
16 zations;

17 (3) to build international professional networks;

18 (4) to recruit candidates for future fellowships;

19 (5) to identify placement opportunities for fu-  
20 ture fellows; and

21 (6) to raise funds in support of alumni activi-  
22 ties and future fellows.

23 (c) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING.—The  
24 Secretary of State is strongly encouraged to defray the  
25 costs of the Program through public-private partnerships

1 that seek in-kind contributions, financial assistance for  
2 travel and administrative costs, job placement, and re-  
3 cruitment assistance from—

4 (1) the private sector, including private founda-  
5 tions;

6 (2) foreign governments; and

7 (3) other interested parties.

8 **SEC. 10. REPORT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months, 27  
10 months, and 39 months after the date of the enactment  
11 of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report  
12 to the appropriate congressional committees that describes  
13 the administration and outcomes of the Program.

14 (b) CONTENTS.—The reports submitted under sub-  
15 section (a) shall include—

16 (1) the administrative costs of the Program;

17 (2) recommendations for improving cost-shar-  
18 ing;

19 (3) the country selection process for the Pro-  
20 gram;

21 (4) the qualifications, overhead, and achieve-  
22 ments of any partners involved in the implementa-  
23 tion of the Program;

24 (5) the program models used by grantees to  
25 promote cross-learning;

- 1           (6) recruitment practices and outcomes;
- 2           (7) the number of candidates per country;
- 3           (8) selection criteria used to choose fellows, in-
- 4           cluding issues that arose during selection and rec-
- 5           ommendations for improved selection;
- 6           (9) the placement process, including issues that
- 7           arose during selection and recommendations for im-
- 8           proved placement;
- 9           (10) the training offered, including rec-
- 10          ommendations for improved training;
- 11          (11) the alumni networks created, including
- 12          recommendations for improving alumni activity; and
- 13          (12) other recommendations for improving the
- 14          administration and funding of the overall program.

15 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16       There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
17   retary of State such sums as may be necessary for each  
18   of the fiscal years 2011 through 2014, which shall be ex-  
19   pended to carry out the Program in accordance with this  
20   Act.

○